

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on October 30, 2006, in this application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment of claim 1 may be found in Figs. 1 and 2 and accompanying description on pages 5 and 6 of the PCT publication. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gravely (US 5,642,452) in view of Keller (US 6,167,180). Claim 6 was rejected over Gravely in view of Keller and Birkeland (US 6,714,709). Claim 8 was rejected over Gravely in view of Keller and Vyas (US 5,247,599).

Claim 1 comprises the following limitations regarding the outer tensile member:

an outer tensile member having the form of a substantially cylindrical sheet extended in the longitudinal direction surrounding the inner sheath; and

....

wherein the outer tensile member includes:

a plurality of tensile wires extended in the longitudinal direction in parallel without intentional twisting on the central tensile member,

each tensile wire having a longitudinal axis, the respective longitudinal axes each lying substantially in the same cylinder; and

a thermosetting adhesive resin for connecting the tensile wires adjacent to each other,

wherein the thermosetting adhesive resin permeates the spaces between the wires such that any broken wires effectively remain combined together.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest such a structure. The corresponding structure of Gravely cited by the Examiner is not a tensile member at all, but rather a few widely-spaced “water-blocking yarns.” There is no mention of an adhesive resin of any sort. The cited layer 18 of Keller comprises “adhesive yarns” but there is no teaching or suggestion of a thermosetting adhesive resin that permeates the spaces

between adjacent wires, forming a sheet-like structure that effectively keeps any broken wires combined together.

Because neither Gravely nor Keller, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest all the elements of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over these references and the rejection of claim 1 should therefore be withdrawn. As claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are dependent claims depending from claim 1, they are also patentable, for at least this reason.

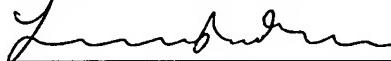
Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission, other than the RCE fee estimated in the accompanying RCE transmittal. Please charge any fee that may be due to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 29, 2007

For Brian M. Rothery (Reg. No. 35,340)
By Lawrence R. Gabuzda (Reg. No. 51,711)
JONES DAY
222 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 326-3939